

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM POST STORY ON NEGOTIATIONS

MARCH 16 JERUSALEM POST FRONT PAGES STORY BY SAFADI

"CRITICAL STAGES BEING REACHED." SAFADI REVIEWS SECRETARY'S TRAVEL PLANS, DAMASCUS DEPARTURE STATEMENTS AND REPORTED SPECULATION THAT EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO PROMOTE SYRIAN-ISRAELI DIALOGUE ONCE INTERIM SETTLEMENT IS REACHED IN SINAI. HE CONTINUES" THERE WAS A MARKED DISPARITY OVER THE WEEKEND BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AND THE AMERICAN ASSESSMENT ON PROGRESS MADE SO FAR. THE EGYPTIANS FOR THEIR PART EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT AN AGREEMENT WAS AT THEIR DOORSTEP.

AN ISRAELI SPOKESMAN ON FRIDAY EVENING FOR THE FIRST TIME USED THE WORD "CONCRETE" TO DESCRIBE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT. BUT HE SAID MANY "QUESTIONS REMAIN OPEN IN BOTH THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY AREAS." IN A BRIEFING FOR LOCAL AND FOREIGN NEWSMEN AT THE KING DAVID HOTEL THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS STILL "A LONG WAY TO GO AS FAR AS GETTING OR MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS THAT WE FEEL ARE ESSENTIAL."

INFORMED SOURCES TOLD THE POST THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS FELL SHORT OF A NO-WAR COMMITMENT, ADDING THAT CAIRO WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING TO GET THE ISRAELI PULLBACK IT ASPIRED TO.

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THE SPOKESMAN'S REMARK THAT THE EGYPTIAN RESPONSE REMAINED "INSUFFICIENT AND EVEN UNSATISFACTORY" SPARKED OFF A

SPIRITED REACTION FROM THE NEGOTIATING TEAM ON THE HOTEL'S SIXTH FLOOR, WHERE THE SECRETARY HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE THIRD ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE ISRAELI LEADERS.

"WE HAVE JUST HAD A MOST POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROUND OF TALKS" WITH THE ISRAELI RENEGOTIATING TEAM, KISSINGER'S ASSOCIATES TOLD CORRESPONDENTS, CHALLENGING THE SPOKESMAN'S ASSESSMENT. THE ASSOCIATES SAID "DEFINITE PROGRESS" HAD BEEN MADE. THEY DECLINED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT KISSINGER HAD TAKEN UP THE SPOKESMAN'S REMARKS IN A PHONE CONVERSATION WITH PREMIER RABIN. KISSINGER HIMSELF EARLIER IN THE AFTERNOON SAID THE PARTIES WERE "MOVING FROM A DISCUSSION OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO THE EXAMINATION OF CONCRETE IDEAS." IN A STATEMENT HE DELIVERED ON LEAVING THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, KISSINGER SAID HE HAD "BROUGHT THE EGYPTIAN CONSIDERATIONS IN THIS REGARD TO THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAM, AND WE REVIEWED THESE AS WELL AS OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEMS IN GREAT DETAIL AND IN A VERY CONCRETE, CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE SPIRIT."
KEATING

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